

## **Patent-Related Tools and Methodology for Use in Research and Development Related Applications**

### ***Abstract***

5           The present invention is related to patent-related tools, and methodologies  
involving those tools, for assisting in all stages of research and development  
(R&D) projects. IPAM server may be used in conjunction with the tools and  
methodology to aid in R&D projects. The IPAM server can also be used as a  
support tool for independent inventors. These tools or methods include, but are  
10 not limited to, a topographic map, a top company table, a top inventor table, a  
inventors by company table, a features grouping, a technology classification, a  
Standard Industrial Codes (SIC) classification, a patent count per year chart, a  
patent count per year chart, an application count per year chart, a technology by  
company map, a patent citation tree, a nested patent citation tree, a  
15 product/patent/revenue table, a patent/months to issue chart, and a  
document/annotation chart.

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